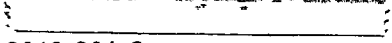


Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 10:16 AM
To: 
Subject: 2019-281-S

Dear Rebecca Hiveley,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer

Latimer, Becky

From: Rebecca Hiveley
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 8:55 PM
To: PSC_Contact
Subject: [External] PSC Letter of Complaint

PSC Letter of Complaint
January 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Incremental increases to Palmetto Utility bill in which we are required to pay to maintain our home are now 76% higher than the original fee of \$29.50. It is difficult to understand why another increase in cost would be justified and supported by PCS and by the elected officials who are involved with appointment of the members of PCS. When are these cost increases going to stop? This next increase seems unjustified at over an 100% increase in cost in 10 years – there has been no increase in the service the utility provides, and the increase in cost is TEN TIMES the rate of inflation. We see no benefit to the increase, and we are vehemently opposed to the increase. Are we funding expansion that does not benefit current customers?

If this continues my family will have a difficult time paying all of the increases which were not forecastable 10 years ago. I am a disabled veteran and many of my community members are veterans who chose this area to retire from the military and all of these unforeseeable costs are making some wish that they had choose differently.

Please find another way to raise the needed money. Perhaps the company could do one of the effective tactics that our government does (including the armed services) such as a pay freeze. Forcing a fee increase is not fair as customers have no other choice. In its present form, the utility company concept is akin to the old Bell Souths monopoly: the business keeps increasing its revenue by raising fees, a dynamic that would not naturally occur if there were competition. As a disabled veteran, I take issue with the increase based in the financial aspect as well as the philosophical aspect in this situation as it feels like a borderline case of abuse.

Rebecca L Hiveley